



DISASTER NEWS

Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses

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Contact: Rick Jenkins
Phone: (916) 735-1500

Disaster Assistance Available for Small Businesses

Sacramento, CA – Small, non-farm businesses in the following South Dakota counties (plus neighboring counties in North Dakota, Nebraska and Wyoming) may now apply for low-interest disaster loans from the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA). These disaster loans offset economic losses because of reduced revenues to farmers and ranchers caused by the combined effects of a late spring killing frost, extreme heat, high winds, hail, insect damage, insufficient subsoil moisture, ongoing drought, and **prairie fires caused by dry lightning**, that occurred in the following 23 primary South Dakota counties beginning January 1, 2006, announced Alfred E. Judd, Director of SBA's Disaster Field Operations Center - West.

Primary South Dakota counties:

Brule	Buffalo	Campbell	Corson	Custer
Dewey	Edmunds	Fall River	Faulk	Hughes
Hyde	Jackson	Jerauld	Jones	Lyman
Meade	Pennington	Perkins	Potter	Stanley
Sully	Walworth	Ziebach		

Neighboring South Dakota counties:

Aurora	Beadle	Bennett	Brown	Butte
Charles Mix	Gregory	Haakon	Hand	Harding
Lawrence	McPherson	Mellette	Sanborn	Shannon
Spink	Todd	Tripp		

Neighboring North Dakota counties:

Adams	Emmons	McIntosh	Sioux
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Neighboring Nebraska counties:

Dawes	Sioux
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Neighboring Wyoming counties:

Niobrara	Weston
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Small businesses may qualify for Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) of up to \$1.5 million to help meet financial obligations and operating expenses which could have been met had the disaster not occurred. "Eligibility for these working capital loans is based on the financial impact of the disaster only and not on any actual property damage. These loans have an interest rate of 4%, a maximum term of 30 years, and are restricted to small businesses without the financial ability to offset the adverse impact without hardship," Judd said.

By law, SBA makes EIDLs available when the U. S. Secretary of Agriculture designates an agricultural disaster. Secretary Mike Johanns declared this disaster at the request of Governor Mike Rounds.

Businesses primarily engaged in farming or ranching are not eligible for SBA disaster assistance. Agricultural enterprises should contact the Farm Services Agency (FSA) about the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) assistance made available by the Secretary's declaration. However, in drought disasters nurseries are eligible for SBA disaster assistance.

For information and application forms, call toll-free (800) 659-2955, or visit SBA's website at www.sba.gov/disaster. Hearing impaired individuals may call (800) 877-8339.

The deadline to apply for these loans has been extended to **April 16, 2007**.

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